

M E L T O N   &   B E L V O I R

R U R A L   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R   E N D I N G

31st   D E C E M B E R, 1 9 4 7.

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MELTON AND BELVOIR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1947.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine:-

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	113,025.
Registrar General's estimate of population						...	16,930.
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,687
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£81,132
Sum represented by a penny rate				...	...	...	£327

VITAL STATISTICS.

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Births	-	Legitimate		154	171	325
		Illegitimate		11	9	20
				<u>165</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>345</u>
				<u>Rate for District</u>	<u>Rate for England &amp; Wales</u>	
Birth Rate	...	...	...	20.3	20.5	
Death Rate	...	...	...	12.9	12	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			...	43.4	41	

These statistics are reasonably satisfactory.

An analysis of the causes of death shows that those most prevalent in this district are those associated with advancing years - e.g., diseases of the heart and arteries.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Whooping Cough	-	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	-	1
Influenza	1	-
Cancer of uterus	-	4
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	4
Cancer of breast	-	1
Cancer of all other sites	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>
Carried forward	21	22



Causes of Death (Continued)	Males.	Females.
Brought Forward	21	22
Diabetes	-	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	7	18
Heart disease	27	31
Other diseases of circulatory system	7	7
Bronchitis	9	6
Pneumonia	6	-
Other respiratory diseases	4	1
Diarrhoea under two years	1	2
Appendicitis	1	-
Other digestive diseases	1	4
Nephritis	3	1
Premature Birth	-	3
Congenital malformation - birth injury		
infant diseases	3	4
Suicide	5	1
Road traffic accident	1	-
Other violent causes	3	3
All other causes	8	7
	<u>107</u>	<u>111</u>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR  
THE AREA.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

J. Young, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Camb.)

Medical Officer of Health for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

L. Hesford - Sanitary Inspector

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board, Meat Inspector, Smoke Inspector.

W.P. Elliott - Additional Sanitary Inspector

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board.

A.L. Sleath - Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations were carried out during the year in the County Laboratory, Leicester:-

Throat swabs for K.L.B.	...	...	...	11
Sputa for T.B.	...	...	...	49
Sewage and water	...	...	...	28
Films for gonococci	...	...	...	10
Blood for Wassermann test	...	...	...	13
Urine (Gen. and Bact.)	...	...	...	16
Urine for T.B.	...	...	...	10
Milk samples	...	...	...	454
Blood counts	...	...	...	4
Milk for phosphatase test	..	...	...	33
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	13

Also the following examinations were carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Leicester :-

Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	14
Throat and vaginal swabs	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	4
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	2
Swab from discharge of eyes	...	...	...	...	...	2
Throat swab	...	...	...	...	...	4





## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. (i) WATER

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(a)	from wells	...	...	...	13
(b)	from piped supply	...	...	...	5

Results of samples taken:-

from wells	-	Satisfactory	6
		Unsatisfactory	7
from piped supply		Satisfactory	5
		Unsatisfactory	Nil

Number of wells:

(a)	closed	...	...	...	-
(b)	cleansed	...	...	...	2

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water ... 5  
and part Parishes

Number of Parishes/without a piped water supply ... 18  
and part Parishes

Number of Parishes/with piped water supply:-

(a)	from public mains	...	...	12
(b)	from private reservoirs	...	...	4

Sampling of some of the public wells has been carried out.

### (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Number of cesspools in the District at the end of 1947	...	...	...	543
Number of cesspools abolished during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of cesspools constructed during the year	...	...	...	1

### 2. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in the District at the end of 1947:-

(a)	Privies	...	...	...	803
(b)	Pail Closets	...	...	...	3255
(c)	Water Closets	...	...	...	1413

### (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

Weekly collections of household refuse are carried out by the Council's Scavengers in all villages, the refuse being taken to tips and covered up. Weekly collections of nightsoil are carried out by the Council's Scavengers in all the villages, the nightsoil being taken to arable land and ploughed in.

### (iii) SALVAGE

Salvage is collected by the Council Scavengers once every fortnight, and special collections are made on application. Salvage material consists of tins, bones, rags, glass, iron, brass, aluminium, paper and cardboard of all kinds. Also string, rubber and waste pig food.





(iv) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report:-

Total number of complaints received	...	324
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	... ..	370

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Re-visits.</u>
Animal keeping	1	2
Bakehouses	16	10
Dairies and cowsheds	348	70
Drainage works	174	98
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	1238	116
Food premises	16	8
Rats and mice destruction	1246	165
Refuse collection and disposal	664	139
Shops	14	6
Schools	2	2
Slaughter houses and Meat Inspection	32	10
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	10	8
Verminous premises and scabies	15	15
Water supplies	170	65
Workshops, etc.	50	16
Other inspections	112	61
	<u>4108</u>	<u>791</u>

N O T I C E S

<u>Preliminary</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Other</u>
Outstanding on 1st January	21	27
Issued during the year	112	26
Complied with during year	116	41
Statutory action necessary	2	1
Outstanding 31st December	17	12

Statutory

Outstanding 1st January	Nil	Nil
Issued during the year	2	31
Complied with during year	2	31
Outstanding 31st December	Nil	Nil

(v) SHOPS


Action taken during the year under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934:-

	<u>Outstanding from Previous Year</u>	<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Defects Remedied</u>	<u>Outstanding 31st Dec.</u>
Sanitary				
Conveniences	-	1	1	-
Temperature	-	-	-	-
Ventilation	-	-	-	-

(vi) REGULATED BUILDINGS

Common Lodging Houses - There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. - There are 5 Vans in the District and 18 inspections were made  
General conditions are satisfactory.



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(vii) SCHOOLS

The sanitary conditions at several of the Schools are unsatisfactory. The water supply is mostly from pumps. Eight Schools are piped from the Council's mains.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1. MILK SUPPLY.

	<u>Cowkeepers</u>	<u>Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk other than Cowkeepers.</u>
Number on the Register	846	291
Number of inspections of premises	316	102
Number of contraventions outstanding from previous year	54	17
Number of contraventions found during the year	24	16
Number of contraventions remedied during the year	51	14
Number of contraventions outstanding 31st December	27	19

Total Contraventions

	<u>Outstanding from previous year.</u>	<u>Found during Year.</u>	<u>Remedied during yr.</u>	<u>Outstanding 31st Dec.</u>
Cleansing	11	14	19	6
Structural alterations	47	9	24	32
Utensils	7	12	14	5
Other	6	5	8	3

144 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, 121 being satisfactory and 23 unsatisfactory.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 and 1938.

Two supplementary licences have been issued in respect of pasteurised milk. One Pasteurising Plant has been licensed and one bottling licence for "Tuberculin Tested" Milk was granted.

2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Private Slaughter Houses:-

Number of knacker yards in the district	...	1
Number of visits to knacker yards	...	2

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.:-

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	42
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PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) ARE KEPT OR  
PREPARED FOR SALE.

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	16
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# H O U S I N G

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 963
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 980
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932. 851
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 851
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 2
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 44

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... .. 32

## 3. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

- (1) (a) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... .. 178
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein 316
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 880
- (2) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. 81
- (3) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. 50
- (4) Number of persons concerned in such cases 162

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year, 1947:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	15	10	-
Whooping Cough	54	-	2
Measles	250	-	-
Pneumonia	28	1	6
Dysentery	4	-	-
Ac.Poliomyelitis	1	1	-





It will be observed that the incidence of measles was high. The cases occurred mainly during the first quarter of the year. The scarlet fever cases were mostly of the mild type which is prevalent nowadays. Only four cases of dysentery were notified as compared with 290 the previous year. Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis), caused a good deal of anxiety to Health Departments throughout the country during the summer months. Fortunately we only had one definite case in this area - a boy, aged seven years, living at Harston. I think the figure for pneumonia is rather high, probably this is due to lowered resistance following the war associated with deficiencies in diet. I would also like to call attention to the fact that no case of diphtheria occurred during the year, a very practical illustration of the success of the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

#### AGE GROUPS

Disease	Under 1	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{3}{5}$	$\frac{5}{10}$	$\frac{10}{15}$	$\frac{15}{25}$	$\frac{25}{35}$	$\frac{35}{45}$	$\frac{45}{65}$	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	-	9	-	3	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	7	15	14	17	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	9	60	62	101	11	3	4	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	6	7
Dysentery	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### TUBERCULOSIS

AGE GROUPS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Over 45	-	1	-	-	2	2	-	-





## MELTON AND BELVOIR RURAL DISTRICT

### EXISTING WATER SUPPLIES

The Parishes of Ab Kettleby, Asfordby, Broughton and Dalby, Clawson and Harby, Stathern, Waltham (Thorpe Arnold Ward), Eaton (Eastwell Ward), Somerby part, Burton and Dalby (Burton Ward), Sproxton (Sproxton and Saltby Wards), Gaddesby, Wymondham and Hoby, are supplied from the Council's mains.

Stand pipes are not provided, the services being laid on to the Consumer's premises.

There is no indication of any tendency to plumbosolvency.

The Parishes of Belvoir, Buckminster (Buckminster Ward), Grimston (Saxelbye Ward), Knossington (Cold Overton Ward) are supplied by private piped supplies of limited quantity.

The rest of the District is supplied from public and private wells. The majority of the wells are 'shallow wells' of doubtful quality, and in many cases insufficient in quantity during dry periods. Shortages have been experienced, particularly in Grimston and Saxelbye, and it was necessary to restrict supplies during the summer and autumn months on the Joint Water Supply Scheme.

The Council are at present investigating sources of supply with a view to providing a piped water supply throughout the whole of the district.



## S C A B I E S

A Centre was opened in May, 1942, for the out-patient treatment of Scabies cases from the Melton & Belvoir Rural and the Melton Mowbray Urban Districts. 17 cases were treated during the year. I anticipate that with the ending of war conditions this disease should diminish to vanishing point in our district. There is no doubt, however, that the Scabies Centre has served a very useful purpose during the last few years.

## D I P H T H E R I A    I M M U N I S A T I O N .

During 1947, 263 children under 5, and 6 children over 5 were immunised.

I estimate that in the district 80% of the children under five, and 91% of the children over five have had protective treatment, and these are very satisfactory figures.

In the Section dealing with Infectious Diseases I have already commented on the fact that no case of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

During the year 46 children received a "Booster" dose - a third injection given just before, or immediately after entering school.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG.

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,  
Melton Mowbray.

